

REMARKS

By way of this Amendment, new claim 6 has been added. Therefore, claims 1-4 and 6 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Miyamoto et al.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maekawa et al. (JP 2002-136096) in view of Miyamoto et al. (WO 99/41825).

The Applicants traverse the rejections and request reconsideration.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based on Miyamoto et al. and rejection of claims 1-5 under section 103 based on Miyamoto and Maekawa

The Examiner maintains the section 102(b) rejections in spite of the fact that claim 1 was amended to include limitations from claim 5. The Examiner is respectfully notified that since the present claim 1 includes all the limitations of claim 5, the anticipation rejection of original claim 1 is rendered moot leaving only the obviousness rejection based on Miyamoto and Maekawa. Therefore, the obviousness rejection is addressed herein.

The present invention, as recited in claim 1, requires a plurality of movers each formed from an armature having a polyphase balancing winding. A stator having a permanent magnet or a secondary conductor is provided. The plurality of movers are disposed so as to face each other with a gap therebetween on the stator. The polyphase balancing windings in the respective movers are connected in series. Importantly claim 1 requires a thermister to be incorporated in each of the plurality of movers.

As is noted in the previous response, because of the unique and novel configuration of the present invention, an anomalous temperature can be detected even when such an anomalous temperature arises in any one of the phase windings in any one of the movers. In such an eventuality the mover can be thermally protected.

On the other hand, in Miyamoto a spacer 6 is provided between the block cores (31, 32, 33). Further, a temperature sensor such as a thermister is inserted in a space corresponding to the spacer 6. In other words, the temperature sensor is not incorporated in the mover.

Since the temperature sensor of Miyamoto measures a temperature of the armature coils, the anomalous temperature noted above can not be detected in Miyamoto. Therefore, the mover can not be thermally protected in Miyamoto. In addition, in Miyamoto, a first block core 31, a second block core 32 and a third block core 33 are connected via the spacer 6. However, in the present invention, the plurality of movers is not connected with each other via a spacer.

This clearly shows that the structure of the present invention is different from Miyamoto.

Maekawa does not overcome the deficiencies noted in the teachings of Miyamoto.

Furthermore, Maekawa does not disclose that phases of the respective motors are shifted. Moreover, Maekawa only discloses processes for coil winding start and coil winding finish. Still further, it only discloses connections related to neutral point plate and a power feeder side connecting board.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success.

Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. MPEP 2142 *citing In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

The Applicants respectfully submit that the patent office has not satisfied the burden of establishing *prima facie* obviousness at least because it has not satisfied at least the “all limitations” and “motivation” prongs of the three prong test for obviousness.

New Claim

New Claim 6 has been added for examination. In addition to the differences noted above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combined teachings of Miyamoto and Maekawa do not suggest that the plurality of movers are connected by connecting lines only as required by claim 6.


In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
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